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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for Your faithful love. You are the one who instructs nations and shapes the destinies of humankind. Help our lawmakers today to grow in grace and in the knowledge of You. Equip them to be servants of the people so that day by day our citizens may more clearly reflect Your image. Grant that our Senators will shine as lights in this dark world to lead others to You. May they love expectantly, knowing that You will provide serendipities, wonderful surprises of Your goodness, to help them navigate through life's inevitable challenges.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ANDREW DAVID HURWITZ TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Senate is considering the nomination of Andrew Hurwitz of Arizona to be a United States circuit judge for the ninth circuit postcloture. There is every expectation that time will be yielded back and the confirmation will take place soon.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

Senator STABENOW and Senator ROBERTS are working on an agreement for amendments on the farm bill and we will notify Senators if an agreement is reached.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 436

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 436 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 436) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

Mr. REID. I now object to proceeding further on this matter at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE FARM BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last week the President said the private sector is "doing fine." Well, the fact is the private sector isn't doing fine and the President's comments make me wonder what private sector he may be talking about.

Since he took office, we have had 40 straight months of unemployment of over 8 percent and more than 23 million Americans are either unemployed, underemployed, or have given up looking for a job altogether. Last month's job report said the economy added only 69,000 jobs—far below what forecasters had predicted. That is the Obama economy, and it is not doing fine.

With the debt the size of our GDP, the President's recent push for even more government spending is equally out of touch. Taking more money out of the private sector, out of the hands of businesses and job creators or borrowing it to pay for yet another stimulus has consequences. We need to reduce the size and scope of government,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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